

THE
S P E E C H
O F
Robert Clerk, Esq;
Deputy-RECORDER of
NORTHAMPTON
TO THE
MAYOR-ELECT
For the Year ensuing, 1684.

Mr. MAYOR Elect,



THE Tumults and Commotions which usually attended Election of Officers in this Town before the surrender of your old Charter, was not only known at home, but notorious abroad through the whole Nation.

The quietness of Mind wherewith they have been since chosen, does now abundantly satisfy all honest Men, how good a work it was in you to surrender it, and how Gracious His Majesty was in granting you so well a qualify'd new one, which has produc'd so good effects.

It must be allowed you that you were therefore chosen, because you are a good and Loyal Man, and proper for the Office of a Mayor in this Town; but then it must not be denyed on the other hand, that before you had your present Charter, factious Men were too predominant, and they would have made it their business to lay you by, the rather because you are so fitting, which now they have not power to do.

Your burden will be the lighter because of this alteration; but however, notwithstanding you have a work before you for the year ensuing; for the King does Trust you with the Government of this Town, which to perform well, is a business of no small weight and concern.

Your Understanding is indeed considerable, and your Integrity great, and you know well how to advise your self; but yet because it is customary at the entring into this Office, for Men in my place to say something upon this occasion, touching your Duty, I will therefore here tell you my sense of it.

This Town Mr. Mayor Elect is the Nation in little, and this Corporation a Model of the Kingdom; the King has delegated a share of his Authority to you; the Town like the Nation, consists not of Men all of one temper, but they are of various dispositions; and as they are different in nature, so you must dispose your Self towards them in a diverse manner.

One

One sort of Men there are among you who have a specious outside, are very formal in the outward exercises of Religion, and use great Art and Cunning to be thought Pious good Men, and lovers of their Countrey, but they are hollow within, and full of abominable vices. Another sort there are no less vitious, but of a quite contrary complexion; they are scandalous in their outside, loose in their Religion, and boasting of their Debauches; the one bears malice in mind, and when he has opportunity will smile in your Face and cut your Throat, the other by a suddain eruption of fury will presently stab you; the one would privately cheat and cousin you, and the other openly He<tor you out of all that you have; the one covers his villanies with Hypocrisie and deep dissimulation, and the other proclaims them with impudence; Of these two kinds were those Men, who in the consequences of Forty one did equally pretend Love and Duty to their King and Countrey; but the one by their wicked subtilty, and the other by their looseness and wretched negligence did Murder the best Prince, and ruine the best Government that was then in the whole World, and yet there is a mortal enmity betwixt them, branding one another with the ignominious Name of *WHIG* and *TORY*: you may do well to extend the Laws to the uttermost stretch against these Men because they are so vile, and let them fare alike because they are equally villanous.

There are another sort of Men who are commonly called *Loyal Men*; they may have their failings at certain times, but are very far from these notorious villanies, or any other habit of Vice; they are seated as Moral Philosophers say of Virtue, betwixt two extream Vices, and not improperly, for Virtue and Loyalty are upon the matter terms convertible, for a virtuous Man cannot be but Loyal, and a Loyal Man will never be but virtuous. Your Care need be but little concerning these Men, for they break not the Laws, but with a steady Mind, alway have, and ever will endeavour to support the established Government in Church and State; If you employ them they will make your Government the more easy, and if you encourage them, they will make it prosperous and flourishing.

The rest of the People of all other sorts, are a mixt multitude; they are commonly called the *Vulgar*, and sometimes the *Mobile*; they are like unto Fire and Water, good Servants but bad Masters; if you keep the Reins of Government strait in your hands, in these points I have mentioned, good use may be made of these People, but if you be slack in the exercise of your Authority, they may become ungovernable, and like a mighty Floud, or dreadful Flame, they will bear down, or consume all before them.

You Mr. MAYOR Elect, have always had a great veneration for the KING, the Royal Family, and the established Government in Church and State, and sometimes heretofore an opportunity to shew it in the times of danger; and now you have one again in the days of Security and Peace, and withal a Power; you may therefore do well upon it, to dispose all the Town in general, as much as in you lies, to a ready Obedience to the good Laws of the Land, and particularly to be humbly Grateful to the KING, who has been so bountifully Gracious towards them.

Thus have I opened my Thoughts to my very Heart, and delivered to you faithfully what I think will tend most to the good of you and the Town; if it may stand you in any stead in the year ensuing, or do them any good, I shall be heartily glad of it; However, you have all now my Good Will, as you have ever had my Good Wishes.